



Federal Agencies Come Together to Address Sea Level Rise Threat to Infrastructure

Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, Maine

Lessons Learned and Recommendations:

- Clearly state the threats posed to the community and infrastructure to spur action
- Pictures, diagrams and data help tell the story, showing change over time
- Present the threats to people in positions of leadership who can leverage resources
- Combine various sources of funding and focus on a long term solution
- Design future facilities to withstand the impacts of sea level rise and other threats of global climate change

What they did, and why:

The Pleasant Point shoreline has eroded approximately 13 feet since 2000, which has exposed the base of a terminal manhole for a wastewater treatment plant outfall system to the sea.

Recognizing the imminent threat to the wastewater treatment plant, nearby houses, and community resources, Passamaquoddy Tribal leaders requested assistance from the federal government during a tribal visit in September 2014. Several federal agencies, the Tribe and the State of Maine came together for an initial meeting in March 2015. The meeting resulted in the identification of various funding and assistance resources (EPA, HUD, FEMA, USACE, IHS) to address the problems.

A vulnerability assessment is expected to be completed by August 2016, with recommendations implemented in 2017. A shoreline revetment project is to be completed by the winter of 2017.



Colonel Chris Barron gives a tour of Pleasant Point erosion during a meeting.

Benefits:

- The homes, offices and wastewater treatment plant at Pleasant Point Reservation will be better protected from future storms, and an imminent disaster has been averted.
- Coordinating and leveraging efforts led to the best use of limited dollars.

For more information:

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“The project truly exemplifies the value of federal-tribal collaboration to address the impacts of climate change.”

*—Deb Szaro,
Deputy Regional
Administrator, EPA
Region 1*